

**Land, Water & Conservation Division: Advisory Committee Minutes**  
**Columbia Office of SCDNR/LWC, SC via Zoom**  
**Tuesday, February 16, 2021**

**Present:** Bill Simpson Tom Garrison James McLeod  
Larry Nates Patricia Hartung Marvin Davant\*  
William Glenn Diane Edwins \*attempted call-in

**Staff:** Ken Rentiers; Tyler Brown; Deanne Myrick; Hope Mizzell; Melissa Griffin;  
Maria Cox Lamm; Mark Malsick; Laura Whittle; Elliott Wickham

**Call to Order/Welcome:** The **February 16, 2021** meeting was called to order by Chairman Simpson at 10:00am. In compliance with provisions of Section 30-4-80(e) (Freedom of Information Act), notification of this meeting was posted in public places.

**Chairman Simpson** welcomed and thanked all for attending.

- **Tyler Brown** delivered invocation and introduced LWC presenters giving reports today.
- **Chairman called for consideration / approval of minutes** from the November 17, 2020 meeting. D. Edwins motioned to approve; P. Hartung seconded the motion and will all in favor and none opposed, motion passed.

**Deputy Director's Report; Ken Rentiers:**

- LWC Division continues to be very productive even as we telework and come into the office.
- Upon Dr. Clendenin's retirement as our State Geologist, we are happy to announce the position has been filled by Dr. Scott Howard.
- Bill Marshall has completed the scenic Black River plan, which will soon be available and distributed to members who request a copy. He has also been instrumental in licensing paperwork for specific projects.
- Heritage Trust activity includes our botanist, Keith Bradley's work on extensive updating of data/information and making it available on website links; also seeking an assistant to handle workload.
- Geology crew has multiple projects ongoing including Wildlife Management Area/Berkeley County; Bonneau Ferry; surveys ongoing and reports forthcoming on an additional shell ring on Coosaw Island.
- Geologic survey/state mapping project to include Marion; Dillon; Edgefield and other counties along with offshore mapping projects with Coastal Hydrology Group including aquifer information in and around Charleston; when information is available will keep you updated.

- Edisto River Basin meetings continue virtually with great progress from entire team. Partnerships and collaboration ongoing with DNR; CDM Smith; DOT; Furman; USGS; CofC; Clemson; USC; and others.
- In conclusion; any questions? Chairman asked about current projects he sees which appear to be intruding into wetlands/filling-in with land from elsewhere to make ground where there was none and what is being done about it? Rentiers answer included that DNR is involved & does a great job in project mitigation and monitoring; fact-finding; assessing and reporting; and as you know, DNR is not a regulatory agency but we keep the information coming and consistently weigh-in on what's being done and what's being done well. Mentioned it may be great to have our own Lorianne Riggins report to the Committee at our next meeting to elaborate and present the work being done here and throughout the state. Chairman asked to have that set up and he's eager to hear her speak. Tyler Brown accepted the request and will follow up with Ms. Riggins to invite her to the May 2021 meeting of the committee.

***Conservation Districts Report; Tyler Brown:***

- NRCS limiting traffic in Conservation District/County offices but our Conservation District employees continue to work in the office and in the field.
- Conservation District Board meetings continue in every district with a combination of virtual and in-person with hopes and plans to be back to all in-person as soon as possible.
- Chris Workman is working on Watershed mapping to develop an interactive Watershed map to include monitoring service features and other tools.
- We continue to write articles in SC Wildlife Magazine to highlight Conservation District Programs; first appeared in the Jan/Feb edition; next on Watershed Districts will appear in next issue and additional program information/stories will continue through the year.
- Brooke's efforts continue in outreach as she is currently on maternity leave with healthy baby girl.
- Feral Swine Project is ongoing with trapping/removal in pilot counties of Hampton and Newberry

***Introduction of State Climatologist, Hope Mizzell for her presentation – Hope introduced her team of those present: Mark Malesick; Melissa Griffin; Elliott Wickham; Maria Cox Lamm and Laura Whittle; presentation highlights included:***

- Participation in 50-60 meetings throughout the year with counterparts in Climate in our area and nationwide
- Drought Response Program
- Social Media Outreach and interactive weather websites on events and information
- Mark's weather report has 34K followers to date with all positive feedback

- Web-based story journals; SC Extreme events timeline; Emergency management resources
- Program/staff have received several National awards and local awards for excellence
- Citizen observers program “Co-Co-Rahs,” who measure precipitation (mostly rain) & report, has 400 members; 76 of which have served since 2008; results/measurements are available online
- Serve on SC team for US drought monitor input
- Many other programs we serve and are involved with; if more info needed, call anytime.

***Introduction of Flood Mitigation Manager, Maria Cox Lamm for her presentation; highlights included:***

- National Flood Insurance Program – 236 participating communities in SC
- FEMA; post-disaster community support
- Flood Mitigation; Risk assessment; interactive and timely flood maps
- Flood Plane mapping and management
- Grand Program administration
- Outreach/Training/Technical Assistance for local governments

***Chairman: Thank you for the excellent work and presentations. Any questions/further/additional discussion before we move to business on the agenda? Any further discussion?***

***Hearing none, please review the list provided of Commissioner appointments and re-appointments before we consider them; Chairman called on Tyler Brown for any comments; Tyler says everything is just as it looks on the spreadsheet.***

- List as presented in the spreadsheet (everyone has a copy which was sent prior to the meeting for review) is self-explanatory.
- Motion made by Nates to approve the slate of Commissioners up for appointment and re-appointment. Motion was seconded by Hartung and Chairman called for vote
- Hearing all in favor and none opposed; motion passed; entire slate as presented and approved will be forwarded to SCDNR Board for their next meeting for consideration.

***Chairman commented on input for a way to help those interested in running for Conservation District Commissioner understand what the role would entail; hopefully prior to elections from this point forward. Any recommendations and/or comments?***

***Mr. Glenn expressed his idea to communicate to potential candidates by providing state soil and water laws/information to the SC Election Commission and have them post it or provide to those who inquire in advance of elections. To which Tyler responded by making the recommendation an action item prior to the next election cycle.***

***Without further comment, Tyler Brown reviewed yearly calendar of remaining quarterly meetings as listed below:***

- Tuesday, May 18 from 10:00am-1:00pm
- Tuesday, Aug. 17 from 10:00am-1:00pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 10:00am-1:00pm

Also asked Chair if it suits the Committee to have Lorianne Riggin, Environmental Programs, DNR and Bill Marshall, Botany and River Programs, DNR to give presentations at the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. All agreed and Tyler will invite/confirm them both prior to the next meeting.

***Chairman: Does anyone have additional comments or discussion? Hearing none, the meeting adjourned at 11:17am***